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Date: 4/2/99

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production,
Processing, and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

As a consumer and citizen, I urge the FDA to retain the current labeling law concerning irradiated foods. This includes use of the current terminology "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation," and the use of the radura symbol on all irradiated whole foods. I ask also that these be placed prominently and conspicuously on the front of the package, not in tiny type on the ingredient label.

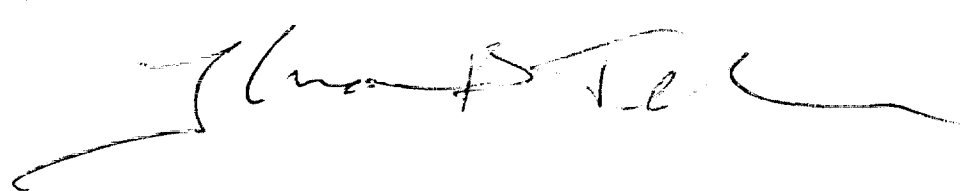
In its initial petition, the FDA concluded that irradiation was a "material fact" about the processing of a food, and therefore should be disclosed. The material fact remains; therefore, labeling should remain. Consumer acceptability, storage qualities and nutrients are affected. Some irradiated foods have different texture and spoilage characteristics than untreated foods.

Some fruits and vegetables have nutrient losses that are not obvious or expected by the consumer.

Irradiation is a new technology for widespread and lengthy use on humans. I believe the FDA should allow consumers who wish to choose irradiated foods to do so, and those who do not to avoid them.

Because of the newness of the technology and the need to assess the public health effects of widespread use of irradiated foods, I believe that the FDA's labeling requirement should not be permitted to expire.

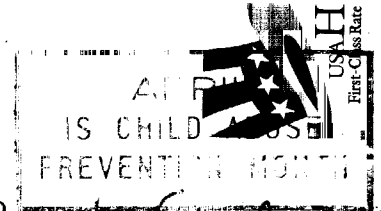
Yours truly,



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